

## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /155 W

----- 040172

R 201215Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2227

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USUN NEW YORK 143

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0813

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: SPANISH PRIESTS TO BE AMNESTIED

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 746

1. NOTICIAS OF NOVEMBER 20 REPORTS THAT AS RESULT OF RECENT AMNESTY DECREED BY PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT, TWO SPANISH PRIESTS (FATHERS MARTIN HERNANDEZ ROBLES AND ALFONSO VALVERDE LEON) ARE EXPECTED TO BE SET FREE SOON. THEIR LAWYER TOLD PRESS THEY WOULD THEN BE DEPORTED FROM PORTUGUESE TERRITORY. THE TWO PRIESTS WERE RECENTLY REMOVED FROM MACHAVA PRISON IN LOURENCO MARQUES TO PONTA MAHONE PRISON ACROSS THE HARBOR NEAR CATEMBE WHERE THEY ARE NO LONGER IN SEMI-SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.

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WM DGS OFFICIAL INFORMS US THAT AFTER AMNESTY DECREE HAS BEEN GAZETTED IN MOZAMBIQUE, DGS WILL PREPARE PAPER WORK AND IT WILL THEN BE UP TO THE COURTS TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS.

3. COMMENT: AMNESTY PROVIDES LESSER OF EVILS FOR PORTUGUESE, WHO WERE FACING POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT AT OPEN TRIAL OF THE SPANISH FATHERS DURING WHICH CHARGES, COUNTER-CHARGES AND DEFENSE TESTIMONY WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY HAVE REVIVED INTERNATIONAL FURY STARTED BY FATHER HASTINGS' "MASSACRE" REPORT IN LONDON TIMES. AFTER THEIR RELEASE, THE TWO PRIESTS ARE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN TO PUBLICIZE THEIR CLAIMS OF PORTUGUESE MISDEEDS BUT PORTUGUESE EQUALLY FREE TO MAKE PUBLIC THE 92 COUNTS OF HIGH-TREASON, INCITEMENT TO CRIME, AND SPREADING OF FALSE OR GROSSLY DISTORTED STATEMENTS ON WHICH TRIAL WAS TO BE BASED. PORTUGAL STANDS TO LOSE EITHER WAY BUT BY RELEASING PRISONERS CAN AT LEAST BE SPARED FURTHER HIGH-LIGHTING OF INADEQUACIES OF CUMBERSOME JUDICIAL SYSTEM WHICH PERMITS POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BE HELD INDEFINITELY WITHOUT TRIAL.

VAN OSS

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, MZ, (ROBLES, MARTIN HERNANDEZ), (LEON, ALFONSO VALVERDE)  
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